

Council

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A guide to the...



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History of the Women's Council

The Missouri Women's Council was established in 1985 by the State's 83rd General Assembly to identify and address issues affecting the economic and employment status of women in Missouri. The first name of the council was the Missouri Council on Women's Economic Development and Training (MCWEDT). The name was changed to the Missouri Women's Council in 1994.

Since the inception of the Council in 1985 the mission has broadened. The Council now acts as a resource and referral center connecting women from all socioeconomic backgrounds to information ranging from employment and non-traditional programs, domestic violence and health issues, to entrepreneurship and advocacy. The Missouri Women's Council of 2003 is committed to the pioneering of changes necessary to advance the economic, social and political parity of women in Missouri.

As part of Workforce Development in the Department of Economic Development, the Council works closely with other agencies and community-based organizations to promote the well being of women and families in Missouri. The bipartisan Council is comprised of 15 members appointed by the Governor: 2 Missouri State Senators, 2 Missouri State Representatives, and 11 members from across the state.

Vision and Mission

According to the 2000 Census, the State of Missouri has a population of approximately 5,595,211 individuals, 2,875,034 of which are women (51.4%). The objective of the Missouri Women's Council is to provide the necessary information for women and girls so that they may obtain economic, social and political parity.

The vision of the Missouri Women's Council is *Women and girls thriving in an environment of economic, social and political parity.*

The mission of the Missouri Women's Council is *Providing Missouri women the information necessary to obtain economic, social and political parity.*

It is the intent of the Missouri Women's Council to build awareness, educate, promote opportunities for, and enhance the lives and well being of Missouri's women and families. As is the case across the nation, the impacts of September 11, 2001 and the turmoil in the economy have had broad impacts on Missouri's citizens. Hardest hit are the individuals living at the poverty level, the majority of which are women and children. By providing knowledge, opportunities to enhance the employability and skills development of women and girls, and providing a voice for their needs and concerns, we hope to assist these underserved members of Missouri and lead them to self-sufficiency.

Programs

The Missouri Women's Council, in conjunction with the Division of Workforce Development, sponsors programs that assist women in gaining the skills they need to become productive members of society and the workplace. Current programs include:

- A+ Computer Repair Certification Program - Chillicothe Correctional Center for Women
- Breast Cancer Awareness License Plate
- Fact Sheets providing information on issues impacting Missouri's women and families
- Governor's Conference for Women
- Legislative information and tracking
- MW Connections, a quarterly newsletter
- Referrals to state agencies, organizations, and educational institutions
- Self-Sufficiency Standard Study for Missouri, a statewide county-by-county breakdown of the necessary wages to sustain families
- Women's History Exhibit entitled "The Exceptions that Created the Rule" and interactive CD ROM
- Women's Resource Guide
- Workforce Preparation - Jefferson College, Hillsboro and Mineral Area College, Park Hills